

ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY

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October 29, 1990

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Mr. Joseph Furfey
Manager
National Westminster Bank of NJ
1 Exchange Place
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Dear Mr. Furfey:

This is a request for a contribution to ASPIRA in the amount of \$4,000 for the new calendar year of 1991.

In our quest to provide our students with an opportunity to become achievers, we are now offering them much more sophisticated services. These, naturally, increase our general operating expenses. That is the reason why I request that National Westminster Bank of NJ considers increasing its support of ASPIRA.

ASPIRA's request is prepared in the manner of a brief report because, as a former donor, you are familiar with the work of our agency. I enclose copies of our most recent publications, news clippings about our work, proof of tax-exempt status and other such documentation which may be necessary to consider our merit.

THE 1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR: A SUMMARY

During the 1989-90 school year, ASPIRA provided direct and individualized services - what ASPIRA calls its "active caseload" - to 1,615 students. An additional 1,183 students received partial services, which ranged from referrals to participation in any of the many field trips, seminars, workshops and conferences which ASPIRA provides throughout the year. In general, ASPIRA served 2,798 students.

(MORE)

A PROFILE OF OUR STUDENTS

Our Student Data Base System provides the following descriptive statistics for ASPIRA's active caseload during the 1989-90 school year.

a) Ethnicity- 62 percent of our caseload is Puerto Rican; 19% is "Other Hispanic"; 9 percent is Dominican; 6% is Black, non-Hispanic; and 4 percent is classified as "Other non-Hispanic," usually Asian.

b) Income- 17 percent of our caseload's families are on public assistance; 20 percent received annual incomes between \$2,000-\$11,000; 10.5 percent had annual incomes between \$11,000-\$14,000; and 33 percent received an annual income above \$14,000. Given the large number of persons in the families of our students, these facts underrepresent the poverty level of our students' families.

c) Gender- Almost two thirds (62%) of our students are female, and the corresponding 38% are male.

d) Educational level- 70 percent of our students are at the High School level. Due to an Early Intervention Program, ASPIRA also serves 377 (23%) Middle School students. The Health Careers Program served 101 college students (6% of our caseload.)

A PROFILE OF OUR SERVICES

During school year 1989-90 ASPIRA held 296 Leadership Development/ Dropout Prevention Club Meetings at its school-based ASPIRA Clubs. It held seven statewide Conferences and organized 142 Workshops and Seminars on a broad variety of topics of interest to students. An average of four counseling sessions was provided to each student in our active caseload. The counseling services provided ranged from an in-take interview, to individual counseling for personal, academic or career problems, and home visits.

Cultural awareness was the objective of extensive preparations for the Puerto Rican Day Parade. Since the month of March many students, staff and Board members came to the office every Saturday to learn about the history of "Fiestas de Loiza Aldea", to prepare costumes and props, and to rehearse its music and dance. As a result, the City of Newark awarded ASPIRA a trophy for its participation in the 1990 Parade. (Please see the enclosed news clippings.)

MAJOR ACTIVITIES, 1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR

The activities listed below were the major events of the year. (Please refer to the enclosed EL CLARIN, our newsletter, for more information about the events.)

Leadership Development Retreat. Nov. 10-12, 1989,
Princeton Ed. Center, Blairstown, NJ

Cultural Awareness Conference. December 1, 1989,
Rider College, Lawrenceville, N.J.

Career Day Conference, December 12, 1989.
William Paterson College, Wayne, N.J.

Math & Science Jr. High Conference. February 1, 1990.
N.J.I.T. Newark, NJ

Pre-College Workshop. February 28, 1990,
Aspira Essex County Center, Newark, NJ

Health Careers Conference. March 30, 1990,
UMDNJ, Newark, NJ

Math & Science High School Conference. April 19, 1990
New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

Youth Conference. May 4, 1990,
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Awards Night Ceremony. June 15, 1990.
Cook College (Rutgers) New Brunswick, NJ

NEW SERVICES FOR THE 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR

Thanks to a donation of hardware from UPS and software from the Educational Testing Service, students in the ASPIRA caseload now have access to computerized academic tutoring in preparation for the Scholastic Admissions Test (SAT).

Also, our students now have access to in-house Panasonic Camcorder/VCR media with which to further develop leadership skills through the recording and critical evaluation of their public behavior at leadership retreats and other special activities.

(MORE)


CONCLUSION

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey continues to provide essential leadership development and dropout prevention services to the Puerto Rican and other minority youth of New Jersey. It is the only community-based, private, non-profit agency that provides these services within the public schools, during regular school hours. Each year the scope and quality of its services increases, as does the good reputation it enjoys from the community at large.

Supporting ASPIRA is an act that helps "at-risk" students to remain in school and to attain high levels of formal education. Therefore, it is an investment in the future well-being of New Jersey.

On behalf of our Board, our staff and our students, I thank National Westminster Bank of NJ for its support of our work during the past school year, and hope you will help ASPIRA to secure the requested contribution for calendar year 1991. I shall be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,


Hilda Rosario
Executive Director

Enclosures